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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 12, 1855.

THE SOCIETY met this day, at twelve o'clock, M., at their Rooms in Tremont Street, Boston; the President, Hon. JAMES SAVAGE, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the City of Boston; Messrs. Solomon Piper, Nehemiah Cleaveland, Henry P. Browne, Samuel H. Congar, and Hon. Charles Hudson; also from Messrs. Adams, Shurtleff, and Webb, of this Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Don Pedro De Angelis, of Buenos Ayres, accompanied with a donation of his pamphlet upon the navigation of the river Amazon, in reply to Lieutenant Maury of the United-States Navy. He also communicated a letter of acceptance from Hon. SAMUEL G. ARNOLD, of Providence, who was elected a Corresponding Member at the last meeting of the Society.

Mr. TICKNOR, from the Committee on the Treasurer's Accounts, reported in part, "that the accounts are pro-

perly vouched and correctly cast; and that there is a balance of ninety-two dollars and eleven cents due to the Treasurer in general account, and one hundred and ten dollars in his hands on account of the Appleton Fund."

Voted to accept the foregoing report; and that the same Committee, Messrs. Ticknor and Sears, be directed to report further, at the next meeting, concerning the property of the Society in the hands of the Treasurer.

Mr. LIVERMORE, from the Committee appointed at the February meeting of the Society "to consider the mode of keeping the Treasurer's accounts of the Appleton Fund, and the mode in which the regular publications of the Society shall hereafter be made," submitted the following Report: —

Report of the Committee on the Appleton Fund, &c.

The orders adopted by the Society, on the recommendation of "the Committee to whom was referred the letter of the Trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, Esq., addressed to the Treasurer, together with his official report thereon," fully express the purpose of the Society to keep this property separate from their other funds, and to apply the income derived from it entirely to the objects specified in the letter of the Trustees; namely, "the procuring, preservation, preparation, and publication of historical papers."

The only question, therefore, on this subject, for the consideration of the present Committee, relates to the disposition to be made by the Treasurer of any money that may be received by the sale of works published from this source.

As the regular income from the Appleton Fund will be amply sufficient to pay for the publication, annually, of a valuable volume of historical papers in a style superior to

that in which the Collections have generally been printed, your Committee recommend that all money received for the sale of the Society's publications be placed by the Treasurer in his general account of unrestricted receipts. In this way, the Society will have the benefit of a portion of this fund for defraying the expenses of preserving the valuable historical papers in their possession, — an object mentioned by the Trustees, but one which cannot well be separated from the other current expenses; whilst the whole of the regular income of the Appleton Fund will first be used for the other objects specified, and credited accordingly.

By means of this munificent donation, the usefulness of the Society will be greatly increased; a larger number of copies of the Collections than heretofore can be distributed gratuitously, or sent to other societies and institutions which send us their publications in exchange, — thus enriching our own library, whilst we are enlarging the means of historical knowledge to all who obtain these volumes.

The name of Appleton will henceforth be closely connected with this Society as its most generous benefactor; and the intelligent liberality of the agents through whom the gift is made, in allowing so wide a range in the application of the income, — embracing all the objects of the Society, — gives to the donation the highest value.

To signify the Society's sense of grateful obligation more widely than by the mere record upon the Secretary's book, the Committee recommend that the letter of the Trustees, the reports and votes relating to the same, and a memoir of the late Samuel Appleton, Esq., be printed in the next volume of the Collections.

Your Committee have also considered "the mode in which the regular publications of the Society shall hereafter be made."

Two changes have been suggested: namely, an independent series of elegant volumes, varying in form and style from the

former series, and embracing reprints of scarce historical works of a more costly character than those heretofore published by the Society; and a Quarterly Historical Journal, to be edited by members of the Society. Each of these plans has some advantages over the present mode; but neither of them sufficient, in the view of your Committee, to induce them to recommend so wide a departure from the time-honored mode in which the Collections have been published, at least until the completion of the present decade, of which two volumes have already been printed. The Publishing Committee will, however, be enabled, with the increased means at their disposal, to make some improvements in the future publications, without departing from a general uniformity in size and appearance with the previous volumes.

Whilst adhering for the present to the old mode in their regular publications, the Society can, by special vote, at any time authorize the printing of valuable manuscripts, or the re-issue of important rare historical works of more general interest than the Collections, in independent volumes, bearing the *imprimatur* of the Society, and published from, and credited to, the Appleton Fund.

Respectfully submitted, for the Committee,

GEO. LIVERMORE, *Chairman.*

Whereupon, Voted to accept the report of the Committee; and that the Rev. Dr. Lothrop be requested to prepare a memoir of the late Samuel Appleton, Esq., in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee, for the next volume of the Society's publications.

[The proceedings of the Society relating to the Appleton Fund, referred to in the above report, were as follows: —

At the meeting of the Society, Dec. 14, 1854, Mr. FROTHINGHAM, the Treasurer, stated that he had received a communication from the Trustees acting under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, Esq.; viz., —

BOSTON, Nov. 18, 1854.

DEAR SIR, — As Trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, and in accordance with what we believe to have been his wish, we have transferred to the Massachusetts Historical Society the following stocks, amounting, by the appraisement of his estate, as nearly as may be to the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS; viz., —

Two shares in the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.
Two shares in the Stark Mills.
One share in the Merrimack Manufacturing Company.
One share in the Appleton Manufacturing Company.
One share in the Hamilton Manufacturing Company.
One share in the Massachusetts Cotton Mills.
One share in the Suffolk Manufacturing Company.
One share in the Manchester Print-works.

This donation is made in trust to constitute a fund, the income of which shall be applied to the procuring, preservation, preparation, and publication of historical papers.

N. APPLETON,
WM. APPLETON,
N. I. BOWDITCH,
} *Trustees*.

To RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, jun., Esq.,
Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Mr. Frothingham further reported, that he had received from the Trustees the certificates of the above-named stocks, for which he had given a receipt as Treasurer of the Society.

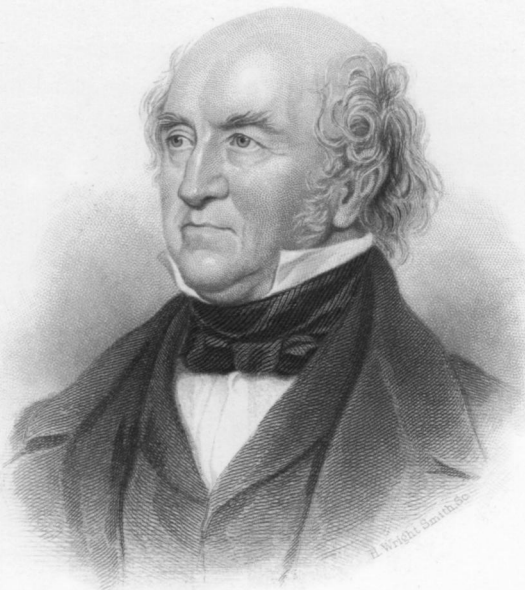
Voted to refer this subject to Messrs. Adams, Ticknor, and Minot.

Mr. ADAMS, at the stated meeting of the Society, Jan. 11, 1855, made the following Report, which was read and accepted; viz., —

The Committee to whom was referred, at the December meeting of the Society, a letter of the Trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, Esq., addressed to the Treasurer, together with his official report thereon, have considered the same; and report, that these papers convey to the Society the grateful announcement of the presentation and receipt of a munificent donation of the sum of *ten thousand dollars* made to them on behalf of Mr. Appleton by his Trustees, in whom he reposed a discretion to give such a direction to his generosity as seemed to them likely most to subserve useful public objects. Whilst the Society cannot fail to acknowledge this benefaction with great thankfulness, as essentially enlarging their means of usefulness, your Committee feel that all is not done in that behalf that should be done until there be placed on the Records the evidence of a full and formal acceptance of the terms upon which the fund is given to them in trust. This act is equally dictated by good faith to the Trustees through whom this bounty flows, and by the desire of the Society strictly to carry their wishes into effect. Your Committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following orders: —

Ordered, That the Historical Society of Massachusetts gratefully accept the donation of ten thousand dollars made on behalf of the late Samuel Appleton by the Trustees under his will, in trust, to constitute a fund, the income of which shall be applied to the procuring, preservation, preparation, and publication of Historical Papers.

Ordered, That the property so received be set apart by the Treasurer of the Society as a fund in trust, to be designated as the APPLETON FUND; and the income of the same — the accounts of which shall be kept separately from the other receipts and expenditures of the Society — be applied forever exclusively to the procur-



Saml Appleton

ing, preservation, preparation, and publication of Historical Papers, being the object specified in the letter of the Trustees.

Ordered, That, in every publication that shall hereafter be made from the income thus applied, there be inserted in each volume a notice in print that it was published at the charge of the Appleton Fund.

For the Committee,

C. F. ADAMS, *Chairman.*

To complete the history of this munificent foundation, the following Memoir of Mr. Appleton is reprinted from the third volume of the fourth series of the "COLLECTIONS."

MEMOIR OF SAMUEL APPLETON, ESQ.,

Founder of the Appleton Publishing Fund.

BY REV. SAMUEL K. LOTHROP, D.D.

Commercial Biography is a department of literature in which we have fewer books than might be written for the benefit and instruction of the world. Of the lives of statesmen, poets, artists, literary, military, and professional men of all sorts, we have enough; but of eminent and successful merchants, men who have made commerce the sphere of their extensive activity and usefulness, we have few permanent records. Even the writers of fiction, whose object is to combine amusement with instruction, seldom make a merchant the hero of their tale; yet commerce has had its heroes, its saints, and martyrs, — men who, along its dusty paths, in its busy counting-houses, amid its varied enterprises, have exhibited the noblest qualities of intellect and of heart. Few of the departments of life are more full of interest and incident, or more rich in instructive exhibitions of character. Directly connected with all that

helps to adorn, embellish, or elevate social life, and promote the world's progress, its records, if searched and revealed, would present probably as noble specimens of our common humanity as the bar, the pulpit, the senate-chamber, the armies or navies of the world, or any of the paths of literary or professional occupation. We should find there men as thoroughly developed, intellectually and morally, — men who to a keen sagacity, a far-reaching penetration, a clear judgment, a mind large and comprehensive in its grasp, have added the qualities of a bold energy and an indomitable perseverance in enterprise; an integrity that could withstand the fiercest temptations, make all sacrifices, and endure all losses but the loss of honor; and a large-hearted benevolence which used wealth for noble purposes, listened with sympathy to every appeal of humanity in its individual sufferings, and met with generous aid every effort to sustain or advance the great public interests and institutions of society. To these men, these noble and benevolent merchants, literature, learning, science, humanity in all the instrumentalities that would promote its progress, in all the institutions that would alleviate its sufferings, owes a debt which cannot be too gratefully acknowledged.

One of these men it is alike our duty and our privilege to commemorate in this volume, by some brief notice of his life and character.

The late SAMUEL APPLETON, for so many years an eminently successful and eminently useful merchant of Boston, was born at New Ipswich, N.H., June 22, 1766. His first American ancestor was Samuel Appleton, born in 1586 at Little Waldingfield, Suffolk County, England; in which county the family had held estates for many generations, and were persons of great respectability and influence. In the collection of the Harleian Manuscripts at the British Museum, there is a genealogy of the family, tracing Samuel of Little Waldingfield directly to John Appleton, who died in 1412; and making it probable that he was descended from William de Appleton, who died in 1326.

The name "Appleton," signifying *orchard*, is of Saxon origin, and is found applied to *places* before the Norman Conquest; after that event, it is found applied to *persons*, but always with a Norman Christian name, such as William, Henry, &c., prefixed. The family, therefore, were probably of Norman origin, and took the name of Appleton from some characteristic — such as the *orchards* — of the lands granted them after the Conquest.

The precise year in which Samuel Appleton of Little Waldingfield came to this country cannot be ascertained. As his name first appears among those who took the freeman's oath on the 25th of May, 1636, he probably came a few months previous to that date. He settled in Ipswich, where he had a grant of lands, large portions of which are still in the possession of his descendants. His son Samuel, born at Little Waldingfield in 1624, and consequently about eleven years of age when his father came to America, became subsequently quite a distinguished man, and took an active and prominent part in the public affairs of the Colony. In 1668, and in several succeeding years, he was returned a deputy to the General Court. On the breaking-out of King Philip's war, 1675, he received a commission as Captain, "to command a foot-company of one hundred men." In this capacity he rendered very important services in protecting the towns on Connecticut River, and exhibited such bravery, skill, and efficiency as a military commander, that he was soon promoted to the rank of Major, and made "Commander-in-chief" of all the forces on Connecticut River. In the expedition into the Narragansett country by the combined forces of the Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Connecticut Colonies, under General Winslow, Major Appleton commanded the Massachusetts contingent, about five hundred men, and was present at the bloody battle of the 19th of December and the capture of Narragansett Fort. A zealous supporter of the rights and interests of the Colonies, his free speech and independent action made him obnoxious to the government of

Sir Edmund Andros, and subjected him to arrest and imprisonment. It is a tradition in the family, that, on the deposition of Sir Edmund, Major Appleton, who had been one of the especial objects of the Governor's vengeance, was allowed the satisfaction of handing him into the boat that was to convey him to his confinement in the Castle. The fact that on this occasion he was one of the council called to the provisional government of the Colony, and also one of the council named in the charter of William and Mary, in 1692, is satisfactory evidence of the confidence reposed in his abilities, integrity, and patriotism.

Isaac Appleton, grandson of the preceding, born at Ipswich in 1704, was one of the sixty inhabitants of Ipswich to whom it was granted in 1735–6, by the General Court, "to lay out a township of six miles square in some of the unappropriated lands of the Province." The township laid out under this grant, and called New Ipswich, was subsequently, by the running of the boundary line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts in 1741, thrown almost entirely into the former Province. The work of settlement was therefore arrested almost as soon as commenced, and several years passed before a satisfactory title was procured from the authorities of New Hampshire. Isaac Appleton did not probably remove to New Ipswich till these difficulties were adjusted. His son Isaac, born at Ipswich in 1731, was the father of Samuel, the subject of this Memoir, whose mother was Mary Adams, daughter of Joseph Adams, of Concord. They had a family of twelve children, of whom Samuel was the third.

Isaac Appleton was a deacon of the church, a man of piety and integrity, highly respected and beloved in the little community of New Ipswich; but, of course, he and his family were subject to the privations and hardships that necessarily attached to life in a newly settled frontier town a century ago. So far as the characters and future destiny of his children were concerned, these privations were perhaps in reality advan-

tages. They served to develop energy, self-reliance, benevolent and kindly feelings, a manly simplicity, and an elevated, independent tone of moral sentiment, that were of more worth than all the benefits that come from the more thorough intellectual and conventional culture to be had amid the influences of a great city far advanced in civilization. Undoubtedly the scenes amid which his childhood was passed, his training in a mountainous region, in agricultural employments, and, above all, in the home of wise and pious parents, were among the influences that helped to develop in Mr. Samuel Appleton the intellectual and moral qualities that made his life successful, and as pure and honorable as it was successful; and that won for his character the affectionate respect and confidence of all who knew him.

The district school of his native town was the only seminary of learning which he ever had any opportunity to attend, and this only for a limited portion of the year, till he was sixteen; yet so faithfully had its advantages been improved, that at seventeen he was the teacher of a district school himself, and gave so much satisfaction, that his services in this capacity were in request every winter, in his own or in neighboring towns, so long as he was willing to engage in the office of teaching. Two years before this, however, just as he was completing his fifteenth year, he had an experience and disappointment which cannot be better told than it is by himself in a brief autobiography of his early years, written in the third person.

"In 1781, Mr. R—— H——, a merchant of Concord, N.H., was on a visit at New Ipswich, and observed to Deacon Appleton, 'You have a large number of boys; and, if you wish it, I will take one of them to tend my store in Concord.' Upon this slight invitation, and without further ceremony, Samuel was on his way to Concord within three days, with a very small bundle of clothes and fifty cents in cash, to seek his fortune among strangers. He set off on foot, though the

travelling was very bad, in March, in very good spirits. To be a trader, though it might be in a small way, was his hobby. He arrived at Concord about noon the second day after leaving home. Mr. H—— had not returned home; he had gone to Boston, and was not expected for a week. The boy Samuel told his simple story to Mrs. H——, who was a very superior woman. She told him Mr. H—— had not written her upon the subject; that they did not want another boy in the store, and but for his honest looks she should take him for an impostor. She told him, however, that he might remain, and she would find some work for him to do till her husband returned. . . . Mr. H—— returned in about a week: his wife told him the whole story, and said they did not want another boy; and, when they might want one, she had a nephew she wished to put into the store. Mr. H—— told the boy he hardly expected him to come to Concord on so slight an invitation, and without any thing being said respecting the terms. He told him, however, he might stay for a while, and see how he liked shop-keeping. He was immediately put to work in the store. . . . With this kind of business Samuel was well pleased, and believed he gave satisfaction, till he had been there about four months, when Mrs. H——'s nephew arrived. Mrs. H—— then told Samuel, as she must give the preference to her nephew, she had no further need of his services, and that he had better return to his father. This was to him a severe blow. However, the next day, with a heavy heart and a light purse, he set out for New Ipswich. His father was as much surprised and disappointed at his return as was Mrs. H——, four months before, at his arrival at her house in Concord."

He returned to New Ipswich from this unsuccessful attempt "to become a trader," and for four or five years remained at home, assisting his father on the farm in the summer, and teaching a district school, in his own or some neighboring town, in the winter. When about twenty-two years of age, he

went into Maine with a party of young men to settle a township of land which had been granted to Hon. C. Barrett. Mr. Appleton went partly as agent for Mr. Barrett, and with some design of making it his permanent residence. "I took for myself," he says in one of his letters, "a lot of land more than two miles from any other settlement, and for some time carried my provisions on my back, going through the woods by marked trees to my log-house and home at that time." Nearly sixty years afterwards, he presented a bell for a meeting-house erected in this town, then known as "Hope," now called "Appleton;" rejoicing, as he says, "that the gospel is preached within three miles of the place where I spent three long summer seasons, during which time I never heard the sound of a church-going bell, or ever heard a sermon, or the voice of prayer, there being at that time no place of public worship within twenty miles of my humble dwelling."

The experience and discipline of this pioneer-life in Maine served to develop yet further his energy and self-reliance, to mature his self-knowledge, and indicate the path of activity and enterprise that would be most in harmony with his tastes and powers. This was evidently not that of the farmer. "His special gift was not for handling the axe or guiding the plough," though he could do these well. He wished to become a merchant; and accordingly, leaving Maine, he entered into trade, first with Colonel Jewett at Ashburnham, and subsequently with Mr. Barrett at "the foot of the old Meeting-house Hill in New Ipswich." But his energy and activity required a larger sphere. He removed to Boston in 1794, and commenced a business which at once became prosperous, and soon large and extensive. In 1799, having formed a partnership with his brother Nathan, under the firm of "S. & N. Appleton," he made his first voyage to Europe; and, for the next twenty years, much of his time was passed abroad, in selecting importations, and transacting the foreign business of the firm. Though largely engaged in the importing business, he was, in connec-

tion with his brother, Nathan Appleton, and others, among the earliest of those who encouraged the introduction of domestic manufactures, and is entitled to share largely in whatever praise is due to the patriotism, the public spirit, "the wise foresight of the future industrial wants of the community," which built up Waltham, Lowell, Manchester, and other manufacturing towns.

In 1819, Mr. Appleton married Mrs. Mary Gore, a lady whose just appreciation of all that was noble and excellent in his own character, whose ready sympathy in whatever interested him, and in all things good and pure, whose gentle virtues, refined tastes, and elevating influence, made his home a scene of serene domestic happiness, as delightful and attractive to others as it was blessed to its inmates. "There never was," writes one who was competent to judge, "a more sunshiny home; and, for the sunshine which filled it, it was his happiness to feel that he was indebted to the character and affection of the wife whom he loved."

As he approached sixty years of age, Mr. Appleton retired from the firm of which he had so long been the head, and, gradually relinquishing all participation in the active pursuits of business, passed the remainder of his life in the graceful enjoyment, the wise and noble use, of the ample fortune which an honorable industry, enterprise, and commercial sagacity, had secured to him. His old age was beautiful and instructive. As his life had been honorable and useful, cheerfulness and usefulness marked it to the last. Though withdrawn from business pursuits, his sympathies were never withdrawn from the best interests of society, or his aid refused to that which his judgment approved as calculated to promote them. During the last two or three years of his life, he was, in a great measure, confined to his room and his chair; yet that room was the most cheerful in the house, the centre of attraction to the friends who loved him best and were dearest to himself, and from it there went forth a healthy and holy tone of moral

feeling, and wise and large charities, that remain to benefit and bless many hearts. Waiting patiently, like one of old, his work well done, he was at length permitted to say, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." He died on the 12th of July, 1853, in the eighty-eighth year of his age, leaving behind him that "memory of the just which is blessed."

He was a *just* man. That comprehensive word describes the great element that controlled his life and character. He was just in his dealings, just in his judgments, just to others, just to himself, — to all the powers of his mind and all the affections of his heart, — to the mortal and immortal part of his nature. He had but one purpose, he knew but one law; and that was to do and say and feel that which on the occasion, under the circumstances, it was *just*, *right*, that he should do and say and feel. Doubtless he was ambitious of success; and the energy and enterprise, the patient, persevering industry and sagacity, with which he entered upon and pursued his business, indicate a determination to achieve success. But instinctively almost, in the very depths of his nature, there was one condition attached, — it must be an honorable and *just* success; it must be the fruit of integrity, a success which brought no reproaches from others, no accusations from his own conscience. "A stranger, on seeing him," writes Dr. Peabody, "would have been first struck with his apparent simplicity and open-hearted honesty. It was in his manner, in his look, and in the tones of his voice. There was no mistaking it. He was an honest man, without subterfuge or disguise, incapable of any thing indirect or underhanded. . . . He knew of but one way of speaking; and that was to say, straight on, the truth. It was a principle grown into a necessity of his moral nature. He did not know what else to say." And it may be added, that he knew but *one* way of acting, and that was to do what was just and right. So strong was the impression, the conviction, of his perfect integrity, made upon the

minds of all who knew him, that in a suit at law brought against him on a note of hand for a few hundred dollars, signed "Samuel Appleton," and found among the papers of a deceased person, — which note he could not prove to be a forgery, as there was a resemblance to his own signature, but simply declared it could not be genuine, as he had no recollection of it, and there were no traces of it in his books, — the jury gave a verdict in his favor, on the ground that they were "quite sure that Mr. Appleton would not dispute the payment of the note, except on the certainty that he did not owe it." What stronger evidence could any man receive of the confidence reposed by his fellow-citizens in his integrity? — a confidence which in this case was proved to be correct; as it was ascertained, several years afterwards, that the note was genuine, but the signer of it was another Samuel Appleton, a sea-captain of Portland, Me., who had been dead many years.

Mr. Appleton was a *just* man. Even his charities were in his mind but acts of justice, — something that he owed it to God, his fellow-men, and himself to do. It is from this thought, this feeling, in his own soul, coupled with his perfect and unspotted integrity, that they derive much of their precious value and efficacy. The charities of an unjust man, a man whose integrity and honor are suspected, or more than suspected, whose scrambles in the market have been so greedy and unscrupulous that it is felt that "dirt sticks to his gold," carry no great moral power with them. They are available as money to the individuals or institutions on which they are bestowed; but they do not tell upon the heart of the community, nor gain for the giver a place of high regard and affectionate respect in that heart. Mr. Appleton was beloved because he was known to be just as well as benevolent; because he was both just and benevolent; because he held the property which he had accumulated by just and honorable dealing as a trust, in the use of which he was to be guided by what was due to others, to himself, and to God, the Giver of all.

This controlling element of his character — an instinctive integrity and honesty of soul, a simple desire to be and to do what was right — was united with a warm heart, strong and tender affections, and a quick sympathy in the joys and sufferings of others. He retained to the last vivid recollections of all the scenes and associations of his boyhood, of all the friends and companions of his youth, and a deep interest in all that related to the prosperity and improvement of his native town. There is no surer evidence than this of a good heart, uncorrupted by the world, — of a pure and unstained life, free from dark and painful memories. We do not like to look back, if there stand out prominent in the path things that fill us with regret, with shame, mortification, remorse. Mr. Appleton delighted to look back; for the retrospection was peaceful and pleasant, tending only to awaken gratitude to God and kind feelings towards man. He never lost his interest in any, however humble, who were connected with the labor and struggles of his early life, nor failed to give them, if needed, substantial tokens of his remembrance and his sympathy. To a large circle of kindred, his warm affections went out in constant acts of kindness, and in aid and encouragement wisely given to promote their success and advancement in the world. All the best interests and institutions of his native town were fostered by his liberal hand; and its Academy, placed on a permanent foundation through funds which were largely his gift, will stand as a lasting memorial alike of his benevolence and of "his love toward the spot where he was born."

But his charities were not confined within the range of his personal interests or sympathies. Always liberal, he made it a rule, during the last years of his life, to dispose of his whole income, and did so in ways marked by a good judgment, as well as by a warm and generous heart. Not only in Boston, but throughout New England, his name as a benefactor, sometimes munificent, always large, is inseparably connected with innumerable institutions to promote education, to advance

learning, to uphold religion, to relieve the wants and woes of suffering humanity. By his will, after making the most ample provision for Mrs. Appleton, and for a large circle of kindred by special legacies, he bequeathed in trust to his executors stocks to the amount, at par value, of two hundred thousand dollars, "to be by them applied, disposed of, and distributed for scientific, literary, religious, and charitable purposes." These gentlemen, in the execution of their trust, selected the Massachusetts Historical Society to be the recipient of ten thousand dollars of this trust-fund; and in their note communicating this decision, which they believe "to be in accordance with his wishes," say, "The donation is made in trust, to constitute a fund, the income of which shall be applied to the procuring, preservation, preparation, and publication of historical papers."

Mr. Appleton was not a member of this Society; but henceforth his name will stand in an honorable position on its records and in its publications. In our hearts and memories, and in those of this whole community and of coming generations, he will be held in affectionate respect and grateful remembrance, as a just, generous, truthful, sincere disciple of the great Master; one who, to the trusting and loving heart of the child, added the firmness, wisdom, and good judgment of the man; and who, throughout a long life, so far as the infirmities of human nature admit, came up to the great, comprehensive requirement, "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God."]

THOMAS ASPINWALL, Esq., for many years a Corresponding Member of the Society during his residence as United-States Consul in London, having returned to this State, was elected a Resident Member *vicé* Isaac P. Davis, Esq., deceased.

Mr. DEANE announced to the Society the recovery of Governor Bradford's long-missing manuscript, "History of Plymouth," now ascertained to be in the Fulham Library; and detailed the circumstances which led to its discovery, and the means taken to procure a copy, substantially as follows: —

It may not be familiar to the general reader, but it is well known to students of our New-England history, that William Bradford, the second Governor of Plymouth, wrote a history of the Pilgrims and that colony, from 1602 to 1647, which contained two hundred and seventy folio pages; and this, which was never published, was used freely by Morton in making his Memorial, by Hutchinson in writing his History, and by Prince in preparing his Annals. Thus Prince, in the preface to his first volume, 1736, cites as one of his authorities "Governor Bradford's 'History of Plymouth People and Colony, from 1602 to the end of 1646,' in two hundred and seventy pages; with some account, at the end, of the increase of those who came over with him from 1620 to 1650; and all in his own handwriting." Governor Hutchinson, in his second volume, published first in 1767, is one of the last, if not the last, who has referred to the manuscript.

From this time, nothing, until lately, was heard of this volume. While in the possession of Prince, who died in 1758, it was deposited in the New-England Library, in the tower of the Old South Church, where he kept his choice historical treasures, and where probably it reposed at the time of the siege of Boston, when that church was used for a riding-school by the British soldiers. Among these treasures was Governor Bradford's *letter-book*. This was carried to Nova Scotia, and the earlier or more valuable part destroyed; but the remainder was rescued from a grocer's shop in Halifax, about twenty years afterwards, by James Clark, Esq., a

Corresponding Member of this Society, and was printed in the third volume of the Collections, 1794. It has been supposed that Bradford's manuscript *history* shared the fate of other documents that were at that time destroyed or carried away. It has long been given up as lost.

The late Dr. Young found in the manuscript-records of the First Church of Plymouth a narrative, which, by making comparison of it with the large extracts from the original Bradford manuscript cited in Hutchinson and Prince, he supposed to be a portion of the History of Governor Bradford. This portion, which comes down no further than the year 1620, and which probably was a compilation by Morton from Bradford's History, was printed by Dr. Young in his admirable work, the "Chronicles of the Pilgrims," 1841.

Thus matters stood, until a few weeks ago, as to this long-lost manuscript, — an authority, of course, that takes precedence of all other authorities relative to Plymouth Colony. The clew which led to its recent discovery was furnished by a little volume, which was printed in London a few years ago, entitled "A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, by Samuel, Lord Bishop of Oxford. Second edition, 1846." A copy of this work fell into the hands of the Rev. John S. Barry, who has made a valuable contribution to our local annals in a History of Hanover, and for several years has been engaged in writing a History of Massachusetts, now in the press. In this book, he recognized passages similar to those found in Prince and Morton, and cited as from Bradford's History; but the author referred, as the source whence he obtained them, to a "MS. History of the Plantation of Plymouth, &c., in the Fulham Library." There were other passages also, containing new matter, which were referred to the same source. Mr. Barry was impressed with the belief that this manuscript referred to could be no other than the long-lost History of Bradford. He immediately communicated his views to Messrs. Shurtleff and Deane, of

.1. Chapter

It is well knowne vnto ye godly, and judicious; how euer since ye first breaking out of ye lighte of ye gospell, in our Honourable Nation of England (which was ye first of nations, whom ye Lord adorned ther with, after ye grosse darknes of popery which had couered, & ouerspred ye Christian worlde) what warrs, & oppressions euer since Satan hath raised, maintained, and continued against the saincts, from time, to time, in one sorte, or other. Some times by bloody death & cruell torments: other whiles ymprisonments, banishments, & other hard vsages. As Being loth his kingdom should goe downe, the trueth preuaile; and ye churches of god reuerte to their anciente puritie; and recouer, their primatiue order; libertie, & beautie.

Fac-simile of a part of the First Chapter of Bradford's Manuscript History.

this Society, who fully concurred in them, and who felt the importance of at once taking steps to ascertain their correctness. This was in February last. As one of the Publishing Committee, Mr. Deane immediately addressed a letter to the Rev. Joseph Hunter, of London, a Corresponding Member of this Society, soliciting his aid in the examination of the manuscript, and in the endeavor to procure a copy of it, should it prove to be Bradford's History. He sent further, as a means of verification of the manuscript, an original letter of Gov. Bradford.

Mr. Hunter immediately responded to the call made upon him; and the result may be seen in the following letters: —

30, TORRINGTON SQUARE, March 12, 1855.

To CHARLES DEANE, Esq., Boston.

DEAR SIR, — Not having the honor of being acquainted with the Bishop of London,* I applied to the Bishop of Oxford immediately on the receipt of your letter, who assured me that he was confident the Bishop of London would allow me to make the examination you had requested, and who very kindly undertook to introduce the subject himself to his lordship.

This cleared the way; and I addressed a letter to the Bishop of London, explaining to his lordship what it was that the Massachusetts Historical Society had applied to me to perform for them (or rather what I was requested to do on behalf of the Society); namely, to ascertain whether the Fulham manuscript were indeed Bradford's original in his own handwriting, and, more generally, what is the true nature and character of the manuscript.

To this I received an immediate reply on Friday last, in which the Bishop assures me that every facility shall be afforded me for the examination of the manuscript, and that he will bring it to town when first he goes to Fulham, and give me notice accordingly. You are probably aware that Fulham is several miles distant from London.

I thought it right, at the same time, to apprise his Lordship that the granting this favor might possibly draw on another request; namely, that he would permit an exact copy to be made of it, for the purpose

* Who has charge of the Fulham Library.

of being introduced among the Transactions of the Society. Should this request be presented to him, it will impose more inconvenience upon the Bishop than the mere inspection and comparison, which I could do in a single morning, unless he would be disposed to intrust the manuscript to my care, when I should find no difficulty, or very little, in having a transcript made of it. If, after the report which I shall make of it, a transcript shall be called for, I think there ought to be a formal application from the Council of the Society, expressing this their desire to the Bishop, which I would undertake to present to him.

I shall be in daily expectation of hearing that the manuscript has been brought to London House, though I can easily excuse any delay; conceiving that at this season of the year, when Parliament is sitting, and there is so much other public business requiring his attention, the visits of the Bishop to Fulham may not be very frequent.

I am, dear Sir, your very faithful servant,

JOSEPH HUNTER.

30, TORRINGTON SQUARE, March 19, 1855.

To CHARLES DEANE, Esq.

DEAR SIR, — The Bishop of London, with his accustomed promptitude, brought the manuscript to town in the course of last week; and on Friday I had the opportunity of inspecting it at his Lordship's house in St. James Square.

But his Lordship added much to this favor, by assuring me that I was at perfect liberty to take it home, and to make whatever extracts from it I pleased, or to copy the whole; so that all difficulties of that kind are removed, and the Society is perfectly at liberty to have a copy made for its use, from which they may print, if they think it expedient to do so.

There is not the slightest doubt that the manuscript is Governor Bradford's own autograph. Not only is there a sufficient degree of correspondence between the handwriting of the manuscript and that of the letter which you transmitted to me, but there is the attestation of one of the family, written in 1705, stating that it was given by the Governor to his son, Major William Bradford, and by him to *his* son, Major John Bradford. There is also, in the handwriting of Prince, a memorandum dated June 4, 1728, showing how he obtained it from Major John Bradford. It also appears to have been in the New-England Library. And, finally, the written pages are two hundred

and seventy; the number named by Prince, and subsequently by Dr. Young, as the number of pages in the long-lost volume.

I have compared the portion of the manuscript which corresponds with pp. 1–108 of Dr. Young's Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers, and find much variation in the phraseology, and several pretty large omissions, not so much of matters of fact and history, as of Bradford's reflections upon them. This constitutes about one-sixth part of the entire work. I have not compared the remainder with the extracts in Prince and Hutchinson; but, on a cursory examination, I should say that there must be many things which they have not used. The latter part is in the way of annals, the last year being 1646.

It now remains for the Historical Society to determine whether they will have a fair and exact copy made of it. I have spoken to a gentleman who would undertake to do it, and who would execute it in a scholar-like and business-like manner. I cannot undertake to do much myself in the labor of transcribing or correcting, though I should have no objection to giving a little attention and supervision as the work is in progress.

As it seems to be your wish that no time should be lost, and as I should myself be glad to be relieved from the care of so precious a volume, and to restore it to the Bishop's library, it would be well if instructions were given in your next communication respecting the form in which you would wish the copy to be made; that is, whether with the contractions as used by Bradford, and his own orthography, or reduced to modern orthography, as is done by Dr. Young in the part which he has printed. It would be expedient to copy the original so far as to write on only one side of the leaf, as there are a few additions on some of the opposite pages, and also a few notes in the handwriting of Prince, which it might be well to preserve; distinguishing them, of course, from the work of Bradford.

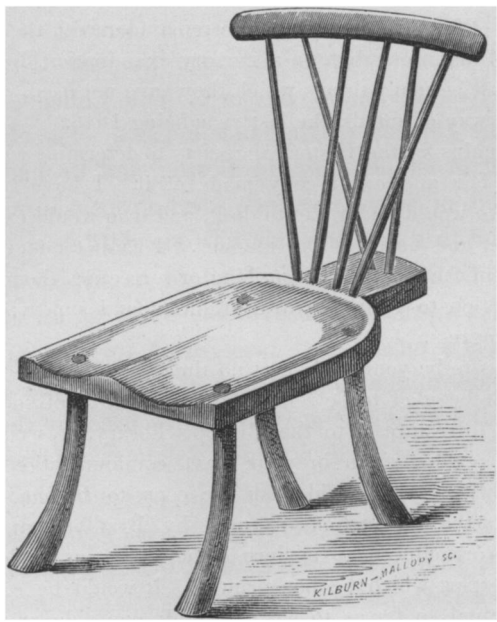
I return the letter of Governor Bradford in this envelope.

I am, dear Sir, your very faithful servant,

JOSEPH HUNTER.

These letters were received on the 6th and 7th of April; and a reply was immediately made and forwarded by the steamer of the 11th, with directions to have an *exact copy* of the manuscript made as soon as practicable.

Whereupon, on motion of Dr. SHURTLEFF, it was voted to ratify the doings of Mr. Deane in the premises, and that the Treasurer be directed to reimburse the expenses he may incur in procuring the copy.



DEAN BERKELEY'S CHAIR.

Mr. WINTHROP, in response to a call on the Third Section for communications, said that he had been commissioned by Mrs. Davis, the widow of our late esteemed and respected associate, Isaac P. Davis, Esq., to present to the Society an antique chair which had belonged to Dean Berkeley. He held in his hand an original letter to Mr. Davis, containing the history of the chair, which he proceeded to read as follows: —

MIDDLE STREET, May 21, 1822.

To ISAAC P. DAVIS, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR, — Agreeably to your desire, I will inform you of what I know of the wooden chair which you purchased a few days since. It was bought by my father at an auction of the furniture of Timothy Cutler, D.D., the first rector of Christ Church in Boston. Dr. Cutler was a Congregational minister at Stratford, in Connecticut. In the year 1719, he was removed to New Haven, as Rector of Yale College. He conformed to the Church of England in 1723. The church was built in order to establish him in Boston, and he had a grant from England of seventy pounds sterling per annum. The price Dr. Eliot paid for the chair was one shilling sterling.

When Dr. Cutler was in England to be invested with the holy orders for a priest, he bought the chair at an auction of Dean Berkeley's effects, and brought it to Boston. It was made in Rome under direction of the Dean, and modelled according to the form of the ivory chairs used by the Curule Ædiles, as Dr. Cutler used to state. It afterwards became the property of Dr. John Eliot. Until the present time, it seems to have been entailed upon the clergy, — say John Eliot, D.D.; Andrew Eliot, D.D.; Timothy Cutler, D.D.; Dean Berkeley, who was also a D.D. probably.

It is now near one hundred years since Dr. Cutler bought it.

Yours with respect,

EPHRAIM ELIOT.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. WINTHROP, the Secretary was instructed to communicate the thanks of the Society to Mrs. Davis for her interesting gift.

Dr. WEBB, of the Third Section, being called on for communications, stated that —

He had long been in search of a curious literary production of our Colonial times, written by Peter Folger, one of the early settlers of Nantucket. To most of the oldest inhabitants there, the work is, as it were, only traditionally known; certain portions of it having been committed to memory, and thus handed down from generation to generation. No copy of it is to be found on the island, and it is not generally known that it was ever printed. Inquiry has also been made for it in vain elsewhere.

Recently, Dr. Webb accidentally met with a gentleman, a descendant of Folger, who observed to him that he owned a small pamphlet which he thought might be worthy of examination by those interested in historical matters; but being the production of an ancestor, and the only copy in existence, to his knowledge, he felt reluctant to have it pass from his hands. Dr. Webb, however, by invitation, had the privilege of examining it, and found to his gratification that it was the one for which he had hitherto made such fruitless inquiries. He had the pleasure of exhibiting it to the meeting.

It is entitled, "A Looking Glass for the Times, or The Former Spirit of *New England* revived in this Generation." It is dated from "*Sherbon* Town [Nantucket], where now I dwell," April 23, 1676; at which time Folger was Clerk of the Writs, and Recorder to the Court. It seems not to have been printed until 1763; where, or by whom, it does not appear. It is a duodecimo, of fourteen pages, with two pages of appendix. It is written in verse, and was prompted by the troubles of the times; namely, the Indian wars and the persecution of the Quakers.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. TICKNOR, it was voted, that Dr. Webb be requested to ask permission of the owner of this tract that a copy thereof may be made for

the Society, and that such copy be referred to the Publishing Committee.

Dr. Webb also exhibited a Genealogical Chart of the Folger family, interesting as a means of tracing Benjamin Franklin's maternal ancestry; he being a son of Abiah, the ninth and last child of Peter Folger. He exhibited also the genealogies of some of the principal families of that spot, whence so much *light* has been diffused throughout the land. Among the families may be mentioned that of Coffin, which is here traced back to the time of William the Conqueror.

The President presented to the Society an ancient Bill of Lading, London, 22d June, 1632, of which the following is a copy: —

Shipped by the grace of God in good order and well conditioned by me *ffrancis Kerby of London* in and vpon the good Ship called the *lion of London* whereof is Master vnder God for this present voyage *William Peyrce* and now riding at ankor in the *riuer of Thames* and by Gods grace bound for *New England* To say *two dry fats of goods* being marked & numbred as in the margent, and are to be delivered in the like good order and well conditioned at the aforesaid Port of *Mattachuset bay* (the dangers and adventures of the Seas only excepted) vnto *John Winthrop the yonger* or to his assignes, he or they paying fraight for the said goods, *at foure pounds pr ton* with primage & avarage accustomed. In witnes wherof the Master or Purser of the said ship hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading all of this tenour & date, the one of which three Bills being accomplished, the other two to stand void.

And so God send the good ship to her desired Port in safety. Amen.

Dated in *London this 22th of June*, 1622.*

P me Rob: Reeue.

The President communicated from Ellis Ames, Esq., our associate, who was not present, a memorandum of the estate of William Sherman of Stoughton, the settlement thereof, the names of the children, — among whom was the celebrated Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, — and a statement of the conveyance of the family estate by Roger Sherman to Stephen Badlam of Dedham, by deed recorded Feb. 7, 1743, and dated Nov. 23, 1742, and the admission of Sherman to the Rev. Mr. Dunbar's church, March 14, 1742.

Voted to refer this communication to the Publishing Committee for the next volume.

Mr. MINOT, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting to nominate officers for the ensuing year, reported the following list; it having been announced to the Society, that the Hon. James Savage declined a

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* Erroneously dated for 1632. This Bill of Lading is indorsed, "Reced this 22th of June 1632 of Mr Francis Kerbey the som of six pounds and is in pt of payment for the fraight of thes goodes I say Reced in P me Rob: Reeue" — and labelled, "Bill of lading pr Mr Peirse ship, Sept: 17, 1632." This latter date was the day after the arrival of the "Lyon" at Boston, as appears by Winthrop's Journal, vol. i. p. 90, under date of Sept. 16; "being the Lord's day. In the evening, Mr. Peirce, in the ship 'Lyon,' arrived, and came to an anchor before Boston. He brought one hundred and twenty-three passengers, whereof fifty children, all in health; and lost not one person by the way, save his carpenter, who fell overboard as he was caulking a port. They had been twelve weeks aboard, and eight weeks from the Land's End. He had five days east wind and thick fog, so as he was forced to come, all that time, by the lead; and the first land he made was Cape Ann."

re-election as President, and the Rev. J. B. Felt as Librarian: —

President.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

Recording Secretary.

JOSEPH WILLARD, ESQ., A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

Corresponding Secretary.

REV. WILLIAM P. LUNT, D.D. . . . . QUINCY.

Librarian.

REV. SAMUEL K. LOTHROP, D.D. . . . . BOSTON.

Treasurer.

HON. RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JUN. . . . . CHARLESTOWN.

Cabinet-Keeper.

NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, M.D. . . . . BOSTON.

Standing Committee.

CHARLES DEANE, ESQ. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

REV. LUCIUS R. PAIGE, A.M. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

REV. CHANDLER ROBBINS, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

HON. JOHN C. GRAY, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

WILLIAM BRIGHAM, ESQ., A.B. . . . . BOSTON.

Whereupon the Society proceeded to a ballot, and the above-named gentlemen were duly elected.

On motion of Mr. TICKNOR, — *Resolved*, That the members of this Society — mindful of the excellent services which, for fourteen years, the Hon. James Savage has rendered as its President, and of his peculiar fitness for that place, not only on all other grounds, but from his extraordinarily accurate knowledge of whatever relates to the early history of New England — do now express their great regret at his resignation, and offer him their thanks for his long-tried and uniform fidelity to their interests.

Mr. SAVAGE feelingly responded to the sentiment of this resolve.

Mr. WINTHROP then took the chair, and spoke substantially as follows: —

I am highly honored, gentlemen, in being called on to preside over this Society, and sincerely grateful to those who have thought me worthy to occupy this ancient and venerable chair. I need hardly say that I am deeply sensible, also, how many others of our number — both of those who are present and of those who are absent to-day — are every way better entitled than myself to such a distinction. It seems, however, to have been thought fit, on this occasion of our annual organization, to follow the analogies of the chosen emblem of our association, selected, I believe, by the late admirable Judge Davis, and now engraved on our corporate seal. I mean the *beehive*, where the busiest workers are not suffered to be called away from their cells for any mere formal purposes of administration.

I cannot forget, however, that such has not always been the policy of the Society heretofore. Certainly it was not in the case of my immediate predecessor, who, retiring from the chair this day, to the regret of us all, after a service of twice seven years, has collected and stored up, for our benefit and for the benefit of posterity, as much of genuine historical honey as any one who has ever been connected with the Society since its foundation. Nor can we fail to remember that he has gathered it all from hills nearer and dearer to us than Hybla or Hymettus. If, gentlemen, I could hope to leave behind me at the end of my service, be it longer or shorter, one-half as grateful a memory as he now leaves in all our hearts for punctuality, industry, accuracy, and devoted fidelity in all that concerns the interests and objects of our association, I should feel less misgiving — I had almost said, less compunction — in succeeding him.

I fear, however, that you are destined to miss not a little of that fulness of information, of that richness of reminiscence, of that raciness and pungency of remark and repartee, which have so often given the highest relish and the best zest to our monthly meetings, and which have seldom been more strikingly displayed than this very morning. Let us hope that what is lost to the chair may be gained to the floor; and that Section No. 3, in which my friend and myself have now exchanged places, may henceforth be relied on to afford us a double measure of instruction and gratification.

For myself, gentlemen, I can only assure you that no efforts shall be wanting on my part to contribute whatever may be in my power to your prosperity and honor.

Voted to dissolve this meeting.

MAY MEETING.

The Society held their stated meeting this day, Thursday, May 10, at their Rooms in Tremont Street; the President, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from Fisher A. Kingsbury, Esq., Hon. Wm. C. Aylwin, Rev. Dr. E. W. Hooker, and Hon. Charles Sumner; also from Messrs. Harris, Shurtleff, Sibley, Winthrop, and Webb, of the Society.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to John Belknap, Esq., for the marble bust of Frederick Tudor, Esq., recently received.

Charles S. Davies, Esq., of Portland, Me., was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Voted, That Messrs. Brigham and Shurtleff be a Com-